

Claims

1. A method of operating a forward error correction decoder, the method comprising:
 - 5 determining which data elements in a code word including parity data elements are error-free;
 - marking elements in an erasure information word which correspond to error-free data elements as correct;
 - maintaining a count of elements marked as correctable in the erasure
 - 10 information word; and
 - whilst the count of elements marked as correctable has not exceeded a threshold and whilst elements not marked as correct or correctable remain in the erasure information word, marking non-marked elements of the erasure information word as correctable beginning with elements corresponding to parity data elements
 - 15 and then continuing for the other elements in the erasure information word.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising indicating the presence of uncorrected data at an output.
- 20 3. A method as claimed in either preceding claim, in which the code word is a row of a coding table.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the decoder is a Reed Solomon decoder.
- 25 5. A forward error correction decoder, comprising one or more processors arranged to:
 - determine which data elements in a code word including parity data elements are error-free;
 - 30 mark elements in an erasure information word which correspond to error-free data elements as correct;
 - maintain a count of elements marked as correctable in the erasure information word; and

mark, whilst the count of elements marked as correctable has not exceeded a threshold and whilst elements not marked as correct or correctable remain in the erasure information word, non-marked elements of the erasure information word as correctable beginning with elements corresponding to parity data elements and then
5 continuing for the other elements in the erasure information.

6. A decoder as claimed in claim 5, in which the one or processors is further arranged to indicate the presence of uncorrected data at a decoder output.

10 7. A decoder as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, in which the code word is a row of a coding table.

8. A decoder as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7, implemented as a Reed Solomon decoder.

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9. A decoder as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8, in which the decoder has 255 element columns, 191 of which are non-parity data element columns.

10. A receiver including a forward error correction decoder as claimed in any of
20 claims 5 to 9.

11. A receiver as claimed in claim 10, implemented as a digital video broadcasting receiver.

25 12. A mobile terminal including a receiver as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11.